



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 SHATTO PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020
(213) 351-5602

May 10, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR CO-LOCATION OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKERS WITHIN THE
SPA 6 COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES COUNTYWIDE
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) – (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the co-location of Children's Social Workers (CSW) in schools and community agencies within the Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 community and law enforcement agencies Countywide to enable the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide expedited responses to Child Protection Hotline referrals, facilitate consultation and communication to strengthen partnerships, and improve case management services within the community. The one-time-only and ongoing cost of co-location will vary depending on the site. The estimated cost to co-locate at 40 community sites is between \$0-\$170,000 for one-time-only set-up costs and \$0-\$50,000 per year for monthly phone/fax/DSL line costs. The costs will be financed using approximately 46% Federal revenue, 39% State revenue, and 15% net County cost. Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2004-05 Adopted Budget and FY 2005-06 Proposed County Budget to cover the costs of co-location in SPA 6 and law enforcement agencies Countywide.
2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) together with DCFS to enter into gratis co-location license agreements with schools, non-County law enforcement and community agencies.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

DCFS currently operates out of County offices located in each SPA. The recommended actions will enable DCFS to house CSW staff in non-County facilities in SPA 6 and law enforcement agencies Countywide. The CAO will execute a co-location license agreement with each agency at which CSW staff will be co-located to ensure County liability issues are addressed.

Co-location will improve outcomes for children by: (a) facilitating communication and collaboration with community agencies, schools, law enforcement, and team decision-making participants; and (b) linking families with low to moderate risk of abuse/neglect to services in the community to enable the families to avoid entering the system.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal 5, Children and Families' Well-Being. The recommended actions will improve outcomes for children by providing more efficient response to child abuse referrals.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

At this time, no lease costs are anticipated for SPA 6 and law enforcement co-location. There will be one-time-only set-up costs (for example, installation of DSL lines to provide CSW staff with CWS/CMS access via laptop computers) and ongoing monthly costs (such as the monthly cost for a DSL line). The extent of the one-time-only and ongoing cost of co-location will vary depending on the site; some agencies may provide all equipment needed (such as desk, phone, fax, file cabinets, etc) while others may not.

The estimated cost to co-locate at 40 sites is between \$0-\$170,000 for one-time-only set-up costs and \$0-\$50,000 per year for monthly phone/fax/DSL line costs. The costs will be financed using approximately 46% Federal revenue, 39% State revenue, and 15% net County cost. Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2004-05 Adopted Budget and FY 2005-06 Propose County Budget to cover the costs of co-location in SPA 6 and law enforcement agencies Countywide.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The intent of co-location is to strengthen the safety net for children and families. DCFS' joint effort with law enforcement on special operations related to gangs, illegal weapons and narcotics has proved to be extremely successful. From January 2004 to January 2005, 800 children were rescued from dangerous situations related to gangs and drugs.

Due to this success, we are currently entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to co-locate staff in their law enforcement offices.

Expansion of co-location with law enforcement agencies Countywide will ensure the safety of children in interventions conducted by other law enforcement jurisdictions. Co-location in community agencies and schools will facilitate communication and provide expedited linkage to services for children and families.

The current plan is to both rotate and permanently assign CSWs to co-location sites. This will require a permanent work site to be maintained in the regional office for each CSW who is part of the rotation process. However, CSWs that will be permanently co-located will free workspace in the regional office. The department will utilize the freed space to house additional social work staff.

At this time, DCFS anticipates the co-location space will be provided with no lease costs. The CAO together with DCFS will execute gratis co-location license agreements with all non-County agencies to ensure County liability concerns are addressed. Should a non-gratis lease agreement be required, the CAO will utilize existing delegated authority to execute an administrative lease. Also, DCFS will enter into operational agreements with each agency with which they co-locate to ensure the roles, responsibilities and expectations of DCFS and the co-location agency is clearly defined.

The Department will report to the Board in the near future on the plan to expand co-location with schools and community-based agencies Countywide.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

The co-location of staff will allow the Department to improve the current service delivery system for children and families by providing expedited response to Child Protection Hotline referrals, facilitate information to our community partners and foster a closer working relationship with all of our stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval of the requested actions by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send one adopted copy of the Board Letter to the following:

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

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1. Department of Children and Family Services
Budget Services
425 Shatto Place, Room #203
Los Angeles CA 90020
Attn: Tito Barin, Budget Officer
2. Department of Children and Family Services
Services Bureau 2
921 E. Compton Blvd, 2nd Floor
Compton, CA 90221
Attn: Eric Marts, Division Chief
3. Department of Children and Family Services
Contract Management Services
425 Shatto Place, Room #205
Los Angeles CA 90020
Attn: Walter Chan, Manager

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID SANDERS, PH.D
Director

DS:EM:BV:

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel